

REMARKS

This Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, is responsive to the final Office Action mailed October 27, 2006.

The title has been amended as helpfully suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-13, 15-32, 34-49, 51-67 and 69-72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Primavera Project Planner – Planning and Control Guide Version 3.0 (19999) in view of Merant PVCS Tracker – Issue and Change Management Control Reviewer's Guide (August 2000) and Hurd II, U.S. Patent No. 6,222,535.

Claim 1 recites:

enabling remote definition of an Issue, a Change Request and a Change Order, the Issue identifying a problem within an identified one of the defined plurality of tasks whose resolution is to be tracked and whose resolution is necessary for the identified task to be completed, the Change Request identifying at least one step to be taken pending authorization to resolve the Issue and the Change Order identifying authorized steps to resolve the Issue;

...

enabling remote definition of at least one second dependency relationship between the defined Issue, Change Request or Change Order and the identified task such that the defined one of the Issue, Change Request and Change Order is integrated into the hierarchy of tasks without changing the defined first dependencies and storing the defined second dependency in the database.

The claimed method requires the definition of one or more second dependency relationship between the defined Issue, Change Request or Change Order and the identified task ..., the definition of at least one second dependency relationship between the Issue, Change Request or Change Order and the identified task such that the defined Issue, Change Request or Change Order is integrated into the hierarchy of tasks without changing the defined first dependencies. Failing a teaching or suggestion of such by the applied combination of references, the 35 USC §103(a) rejections must be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Office acknowledges that newly cited Primavera does not teach defining and storing issues, change requests and change orders as claims, and points to Merant PVCS Tracker (hereafter, Merant) as providing that which is acknowledged to be missing from Primavera. Specifically, the Office points to Merant's Issue and Change Management Solution as teaching issues, change requests and change orders. However, it is respectfully submitted that the issues in Merant are not problems with an identified one of the plurality of hierarchically organized tasks, as required by the claim. Moreover, the issues in Merant are not, as required by claim 1, "integrated into the hierarchy of tasks", as required by claim 1. In this regard, the Examiner points to Merant at "Page 4, Bullet 6; change history, audit trail, etc.; Page 12" However, as may be seen therein, Page 4 Bullet 6 only discloses that PVCS Tracker "lets you link issues with other issues." Therefore, Merant does not, as asserted in the outstanding Office Action, enable remote definition of dependency relationships between the defined Issue, Change Request or Change Order and the identified task as claimed, but instead enables linking of one issue with another issue. There is no teaching or suggestion in Merant of integrating an issue, Change Request or Change Order into a hierarchy of tasks by enabling the definition of at least one second dependency relationship as claimed or by any other means or step. This is because Merant is designed for Integrated Design Environments (IDE), which are environments for the development of computer code. See, e.g., Page 3, line 1, page 4, Bullet 4, page 4, line 1, Step 9 at page 18, bottom paragraph of page 19 and others. The skilled artisan, therefore, would not be motivated to combine Merant and Primavera. Even if such motivation were present, Merant, whether considered alone or in combination with Primavera, does not teach or suggest defining any second dependency relationships between the defined Issue, Change Request and Change Order and an identified task within a hierarchy of tasks, as required by claim 1. The change history and audit trail functionality pointed to by the Office at page 12 of Merant only keep track of changes made to an issue and maintain an audit trail.

of such changes from submission to resolution thereof, and do not teach or suggest, alone or in combination with Primavera, integrating an issue within a hierarchy of interdependent tasks, as required by claim 1.

The Office at page 7 of the outstanding Office Action acknowledges that Merant does not teach defining and storing a change order, and points to Hurd as providing the missing teachings and/or suggestions. Hurd, however, does not teach or suggest (alone or in combination with either or both of Primavera and Merant) enabling a definition of at least one second dependency relationship between the Change Order and the identified task, nor does Hurd teach or suggest any manner of integrating a Change Order into a hierarchy of tasks, and much less integrating the Change Order into the hierarchy of tasks without changing the defined first dependencies, again as required by claim 1. Hurd only discloses a method by which an issue's state changes from assigned to proposed and thereafter to accepted when the proposed solution is acceptable (see Fig. 4 and Column 6, lines 13-20. Hurd does not teach or suggest any Change Order and does not teach or suggest integrating such a change order into any hierarchy of tasks, as required by claim 1.

It is only the present application that teaches the claimed method of managing a project in which Issues, Change Requests and Change Orders may be remotely defined and integrated into a hierarchy of tasks without changing the dependencies between the hierarchically defined tasks. There are no teachings or suggestions in any of the applied references that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to a) define such Issues, Change Requests and Change Orders relative to the claimed hierarchically organized tasks, and b) to enable the definition of second dependency relationships between the defined Issues, Change Requests and Change Orders and a task within the hierarchy such that the Issues, Change Requests and Change Orders are integrated within the hierarchy without changing the first dependencies between tasks, as claimed. None of the

secondary references teaches or suggests the integration or any functionality to maintain the first relationships between the defined tasks, even when the Issues, Change Requests and/or Change Orders are integrated within the hierarchy of tasks.

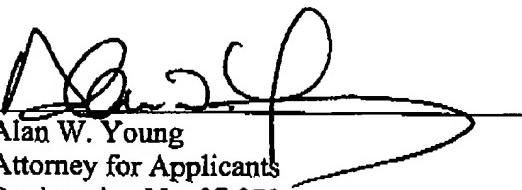
Independent claims 19, 37 and 55 include similar recitations and are believed to be patentable over the applied combination for the same reasons as were advanced above relative to claim 1. Such arguments, for brevity's sake, are not repeated here but are incorporated herein as if repeated in full.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance. If any unresolved issues remain, please contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number indicated below and whatever is necessary to resolve such issues will be done at once.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb. 27, 2006

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Alan W. Young  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 37,970

Young Law Firm, P.C.  
4370 Alpine Rd., Ste. 106  
Portola Valley, CA 94028  
Tel.: (650) 851-7210  
Fax: (650) 851-7232

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